

farm animals raised for food, and it reflects our core values of compassion, decency and mercy.

RECOGNIZING THE DEDICATION OF THE PONTIAC VETERANS MEMORIAL

HON. JOE KNOLLENBERG

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 5, 2008

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Pontiac Veterans Memorial Corporation as they dedicate the Pontiac Veterans Memorial on June 7, 2008. This memorial is the culmination of countless hours of hardwork and dedication shown by the Pontiac Veterans Memorial Corporation.

In 1998, the Pontiac Veterans Memorial Corporation started their memorial project by collecting the names of every Pontiac resident that had served our country since the Revolutionary War. Two years and over 3,800 names later, the Pontiac Veterans Memorial Corporation was ready to design a memorial to honor these brave individuals. Understanding the importance of involving the community, the members asked students from the local schools to create designs for the memorial. The ultimate selection was designed by William Holland, a student at Notre Dame High School in Pontiac.

With a design in hand and a location overlooking veterans' burial plots, which was donated by the Perry Mount Cemetery, the corporation sought out funding for the memorial. The community heard their call and answered with an outpouring of support, from individual donors to group donations from organizations like the Disabled American Veterans of Pontiac, The Chrysler Foundation, and General Motors Corporation. The memorial stands as a living tribute bearing the names of everyone who has served this great country.

In addition to recognizing the tireless efforts of the Pontiac Veterans Memorial Corporation, I would like to highlight the work of their president, Jack Bressler. A veteran himself, Jack spearheaded the project, and I commend him for the countless hours he has invested to turn this dream into a reality.

Madam Speaker, I want to recognize the Pontiac Veterans Memorial Corporation for all they have done to honor our brave and selfless veterans. I congratulate them as they dedicate this memorial and commend the entire community for all the support they have shown.

TRIBUTE TO STAFF SERGEANT JASON BROWN

HON. KEVIN BRADY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 5, 2008

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and service of a Magnolia, Texas, native, SSG Jason Brown, who was killed in Iraq on April 17, 2008.

America was formed in the crucible of the Revolutionary War and hardened during the tragedy of the Civil War. We demonstrated our

willingness to carry the standard of freedom during World War II. During these, and numerous other times in America's history, our Nation's finest young men have answered the call and stepped forward to serve their Nation and protect the cause of liberty. Staff Sergeant Brown honored the sacrifice of those who answered the call before him by stepping forward in another time of national crisis; after the cowardly attacks of September 11th and at the dawn of the war in Iraq.

Just days after the beginning of the Iraq war in 2003, Sergeant Brown joined the Army and the next year earned one of the Army's most revered symbols: the Green Beret worn by members of the elite Special Forces. After enlisting in Magnolia and completing his training, Sergeant Brown was serving with the 5th Special Forces Group (Airborne) based at Fort Campbell, Kentucky. Sergeant Brown was on his second deployment to Iraq and had previously been awarded the Bronze Star Medal, the Purple Heart, a Meritorious Service Medal, an Army Commendation Medal, an Army Good Conduct Medal, and the National Defense Service Medal.

I come forward to honor Sergeant Brown in the truest sense of the word. Men and women like Sergeant Brown are truly deserving of our profound esteem and recognition. Stories of their courage fortify us and inspire us to better ourselves, our communities and our country. We are reminded what it means to sincerely serve others and defend a truly noble cause: the cause of liberty and freedom. It is with faith in Almighty God that we are able to find solace and peace at a time when our collective heart breaks. The deep sadness I feel can be nothing compared to the grief that is felt by Sergeant Brown's daughter, Alyssa, his parents, James and Rosemary, and the friends and family of those who have died serving their Nation in Iraq, Afghanistan and other places abroad. An emptiness has been created where Sergeant Brown existed for those who knew him and I know my words will do little to fill it; I can only offer my prayers and the sympathy of a grieving Nation. Sergeant Brown will be missed at holiday celebrations and will never have the chance to walk his little girl down the aisle, but I hope his family knows that they have the deepest respect and gratitude that a nation can offer.

With each soldier's life that is taken from us too early, we are renewed in our commitment to spreading the light of liberty to people and countries that have never witnessed it. The Gospel of Luke reminds us that, ". . . to whom much is given, from him much will be required." America has been given much and much continues to be required. America was unique in its founding and put forth the new idea that the state would serve as the insurer of individual liberty and freedom. We continue to espouse the very best ideas of our founding, with Sergeant Brown acting as the modern day champion of that cause by standing where few would and ultimately paying for that unflinching bravery with his life.

The reverence we have for all those who serve and, especially, for Sergeant Brown and all those men and women who have sacrificed their lives for the cause of freedom transcends political affiliation and ideological differences. We put down our partisan assaults and pause to pay tribute to the very best of our country. It is my distinct honor to represent our soldiers, sailors, airmen, marines and Coast

Guardsmen in the greatest legislative body the world has ever known. Let us never forget that this body's existence was made possible by the sacrifice of men and women like Sergeant Brown and let our work here honor their memory and the memory of those who will fall tomorrow.

Madam Speaker, I hope those in the Chamber and those watching at home will join me in offering our most heartfelt prayers for Sergeant Brown, his family and all those families who have lost a son, a father, a daughter, a mother, a best friend, a wife, or a husband in the cause of liberty. Let us always remember their courage and the courage of their comrades who remain in distant jungles or far-flung deserts across the globe. Let us never forget their sacrifice, nor those they leave behind.

GAMBRO BCT, INC.

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 5, 2008

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Gambro BCT, Inc., and the Gambro employees for being the recipient of the 2008 Golden Rotary Community Service Award.

Gambro BCT is a frontrunner in the blood bank technology industry in Colorado, with advancements designed to improve results for the greater good of the community.

In addition, Gambro and its employees have quietly made an incredible difference for thousands of people through their volunteer blood drives. In 2007, they hosted a total of 12 drives and collected 424 units of blood, helping to save 1,272 lives. In 2008 they are scheduled to host 12 more drives with collections projected at 447 units. These services result in immeasurable benefits and are decidedly worthy of this prestigious award.

Companies such as Gambro BTC are imperative in communities across the United States, and recognition must be given to their dedicated employees as well. Congratulations on your fine work. I offer my strong encouragement to them to continue their dedicated and excellent efforts.

PUBLIC LAND COMMUNITIES TRANSITION ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 4, 2008

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I am a cosponsor of this legislation and I rise in its support.

The bill will reauthorize for four years the "Secure Rural Schools" program under which payments are made to certain counties in which national forest lands are located. Currently, the program is scheduled to expire at the end of this month.

This program is important for Colorado as well as other Western States. Last year, payments under the program to Colorado counties amounted to more than \$6.4 million, helping to